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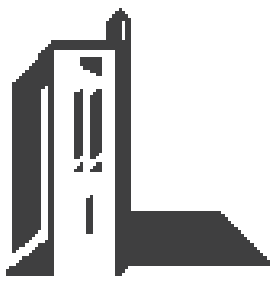
Kenyon Collegian - October 29, 2020

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The Kenyon Collegian

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College lifts quiet period after only one positive student test

LINNEA MUMMA
NEWS EDITOR

AMANDA PYNE
NEWS ASSISTANT

On Wednesday, the College announced in a News Bulletin that the campus would return to a low level of alert on Thursday morning, thus ending the quiet period. This follows the confirmation of one positive COVID-19 test after the College tested all on-campus students last week, as well as a positive case in the Village on Oct. 27 and elevated levels of virus in recent wastewater samples.

"We are monitoring the data closely — wastewater tests in the Village of Gambier, Knox County case data and alerts, guidance from the State of Ohio. As we know from experience, conditions can change quickly and we may need to adjust our alert levels again as necessary," the News Bulletin stated.

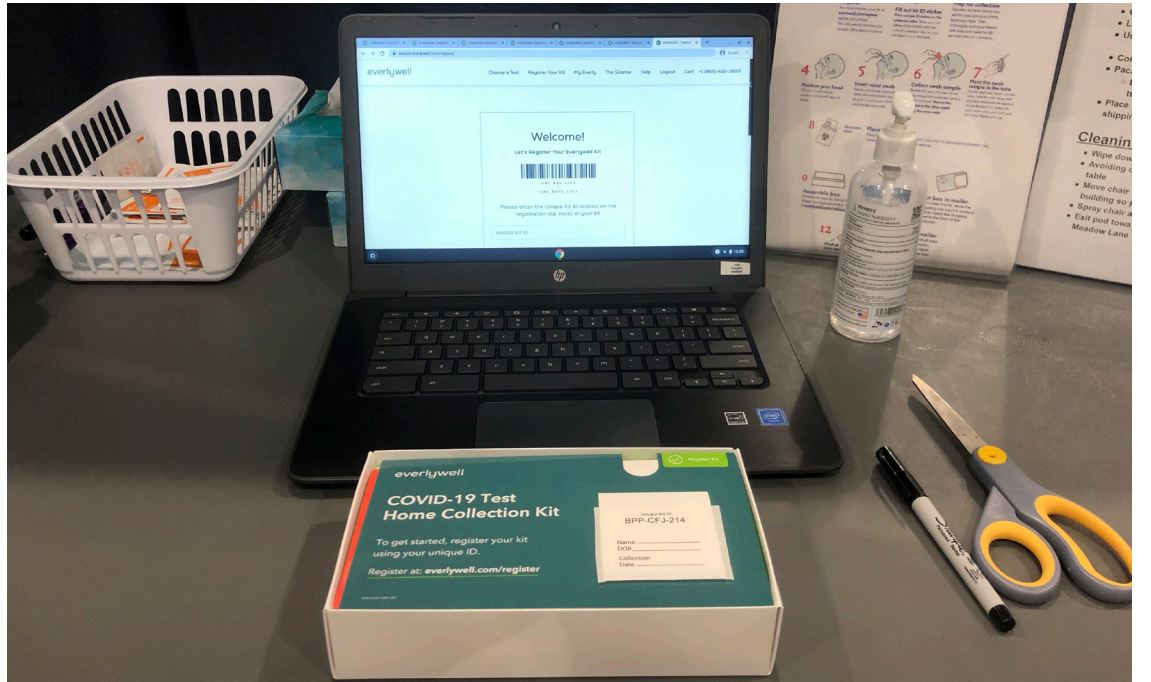
As of this morning, the servery, study lounges, common spaces and the Kenyon Athletic Center (KAC) are now open. Additionally, students are permitted to gather in groups of 10 or fewer and each student is allowed one guest in their room at

a time. All tours are to resume by appointment only, and in-person classes are continuing as scheduled. These operations reflect the protocols in place before the quiet period.

The College has not yet received all employee test results from this week. However, President Sean Decatur said that these results were not necessary to change the alert status from moderate to low, feeling confident in the number of negative student results received thus far.

"All [but one] of the individual tests have come back negative for students, and the major things that are curtailed in going to moderate are dining in Peirce, and then fitness and the KAC, and those are primarily student-to-student interactions," he said.

Furthermore, as of an Oct. 22 sample, Gambier's wastewater levels indicate no further spread of the virus beyond the two recent cases. Professor of Biology Joan Slonewski, who chairs the Wastewater Testing subcommittee of the Public Health Working Group, alerted the community of the news in an email sent on Wednesday. "The level indicates virus shedding consistent with recovery of the two known cases in



After thorough testing, seven students are in quarantine. | REID STAUTBERG

the Village of Gambier, including one Kenyon case," they wrote.

The decision to move back to a low alert level comes after Decatur's Oct. 23 News Bulletin, in which he announced the extension of the quiet period until the College received more conclusive COVID-19 test results. At the time, only $\frac{2}{3}$ of all student test results had been received.

The following day, the College sent a News Bulletin confirming one positive test.

According to Director of Cox Health and Counseling Center Chris Smith, the COVID-19 Steering Committee received notice of the positive result about an hour after Decatur sent the Oct. 23 News Bulletin. Despite this notification,

the College did not announce the case until the next day, and it did not show up on the COVID-19 Dashboard until Monday.

Smith, when asked about the time discrepancy, did not provide a clear answer about the College's decision to delay the announcement.

Continued on page 3

KAC renamed to the Lowry Center to honor Bill Lowry '56

EVEY WEISBLAT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Bill Lowry '56 H'99 was the fifth Black Kenyon graduate. | COURTESY OF KENYON COLLEGE

On Thursday afternoon, President Sean Decatur announced that the College will honor William E. Lowry Jr. '56 H'99 by renaming the Kenyon Athletic Center (KAC) to the Lowry Center, making it the first campus building to take the name of a Black alumnus.

Lowry was the fifth Black student to graduate from Kenyon, received an honorary degree from the College and served on the Board of Trustees for over two decades and remains an emeritus member to this day.

The announcement, which Decatur shared during the Founder's Day ceremony, came after the Board of Trustees voted in its October meeting to rename the KAC and to endow a scholarship in Lowry's name intended to bring underrepresented students to Kenyon.

"This is one of the most significant moments of the past seven years, and — certainly for me, personally — one of the most moving and important moments of my presidency here at Kenyon," Decatur said in his announcement.

According to Decatur, Board Vice Chair Joe Lipscomb '87 P'19 spearheaded the Board's honoring of Lowry, helping to establish the scholarship fund and suggesting the KAC be renamed. In addition, the College has created a companion annual fund scholarship which will aid underrepresented students.

During his time at Kenyon, Lowry was a trailblazer in more ways than one. He served as student body president and was captain of the football, baseball and basketball teams.

"There's almost no better example of what athletics means in a liberal arts environment than Bill Lowry," Lipscomb said. "He is truly one of those people who has left his mark on Kenyon in more ways than most of us could ever hope to."

In April of 1954, Lowry became the first Black member in the country to be initiated into the Beta Theta Pi fraternity. While Lowry — having already become a part of the organization's social circle — was indifferent about becoming an official member, his future fraternity brothers made national news in their efforts to recruit him.

"They were willing to go through hell to do it. I don't know if you can get better than that," Lowry said during an interview included in the announcement. "I could never have respect for anybody much more than I have for those guys." Lowry's initiation and the controversy surrounding it became known as "The Kenyon Affair" in Beta lore, and, according to an archived American studies project on Black history at Kenyon, "sparked a series of revisions within many fraternities regarding their acceptance of black members."

After graduating from Kenyon, Lowry returned to his hometown of

Chicago to pursue a career in civil and political engagement. He was particularly involved in labor issues, and became the host of *The Opportunity Line*, an Emmy and Peabody Award-winning TV program about employment issues in Chicago. Lowry worked for three decades at Inland Steel Industries, eventually rising to the position of public relations director. Lowry has also worked in nonprofit organizations throughout his life, serving as vice president and senior advisor to the president of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Lowry has been just as active in his volunteer work at the College, serving on the Board of Trustees from 1988 to 2012. Lowry also gave the Commencement speech in 2010, and has served on the board of the *Kenyon Review*, as a reunion planner and as a volunteer for the Career Development Office, among other contributions he has made to his alma mater.

According to Kenyon News, when Decatur and Board Chair Brackett Denniston III '69 told him that the KAC would now bear his name, Lowry was amazed.

"To me, this building is one of the most significant buildings that we have on campus and to feel that my name would be attached to that was beyond comprehension," he said. "This is big. It's a wonderful thing, and I am humbled by it, quite frankly."

Knox Community Hospital acquires robotic surgical system

SPENCER HIRSCH
STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 19, the Knox Community Hospital (KCH) announced its recent acquisition of a da Vinci Xi surgical system.

The robotic system is designed to help with minimally invasive surgeries, which tend to result in shorter hospital stays and faster recovery times. It was first used in an operation on Oct. 23, under the guidance of Dr. Tamara Holzer.

According to the KCH website, the da Vinci system

engages in “robotic-assisted” surgery under the control of a specially trained surgeon. Provided a three-dimensional view of the treatment area, the specialist guides the robot’s every move with a detailed control panel. The robot thereby delivers smaller incisions, which, according to KCH, results in “reduced blood loss, scarring, and risk of infection.” A surgical patient can then expect less pain, a speedier recovery and a decreased need for pain medication as a result of the machine’s intervention.

The da Vinci Xi surgical system has no autonomous

function, according to KCH. In response to one frequently asked question on their website, they write that “the robot is incapable of doing anything without the surgeon performing the control panel’s correlating movements.” They also explain after another question that the most typical uses for the da Vinci system are laparoscopic procedures, hernia repairs and bowel surgeries. According to the National Institute of Health, thyroid and prostate procedures also comprise a large portion of the system’s use.

Currently, the Department

of Speciality Care at KCH has trained three provider clinics in their network to use the da Vinci surgical system: obstetrics & gynecology, urology and general surgery. With Holzer’s operation, the general surgery clinic became the first to operate the new system in Knox County, according to the *Mount Vernon News*.

According to a 2010 *New England Journal of Medicine* paper, a robotic surgical system like the da Vinci costs anywhere from \$1 million to \$2.5 million dollars, and specialists must perform up to 250 operations to be consid-

ered proficient in the system’s use. Out-of-pocket costs for patients undergoing procedures and diagnoses are also higher under robotic-assisted surgery, and patients are not always reimbursed by insurance companies.

Still, Holzer pointed out the benefits that this new system brings. “We may be a community hospital, but we’ve got everything that the large hospitals in the city have, and you just get more personal care,” she told the *News*. Many patients may find the faster and less painful recovery to be worth the price tag, Holzer noted.

Mount Vernon City Council reports \$2.3 million deficit

AMELIA CARNELL
STAFF WRITER

Mount Vernon City Council met on Monday, Oct. 26, to discuss the city’s budget and plans for Election Day.

Mount Vernon City Auditor Terry Scott said that as of October, the city’s 2020 revenue was \$2.3 million short of what was predicted in 2019. Scott said it was unlikely that this funding gap could be diminished by the end of the year. “It isn’t going to go down, and it has all the likelihood of going up,” he said.

He also expressed concern as the city looks towards planning its 2021 budget, adding that next year’s budget “will not be any better” due to the ongoing recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Scott emphasized the need for restraint in planning next year’s budget. “I don’t want to set us up for appropriations in 2021 that we know we will never be able to support,” he said. “If it’s something that’s very critical, we might take a look at those kinds of things ... but we’re not looking for a wishlist.”

Mount Vernon Police Chief Robert K. Morgan was asked to speak about

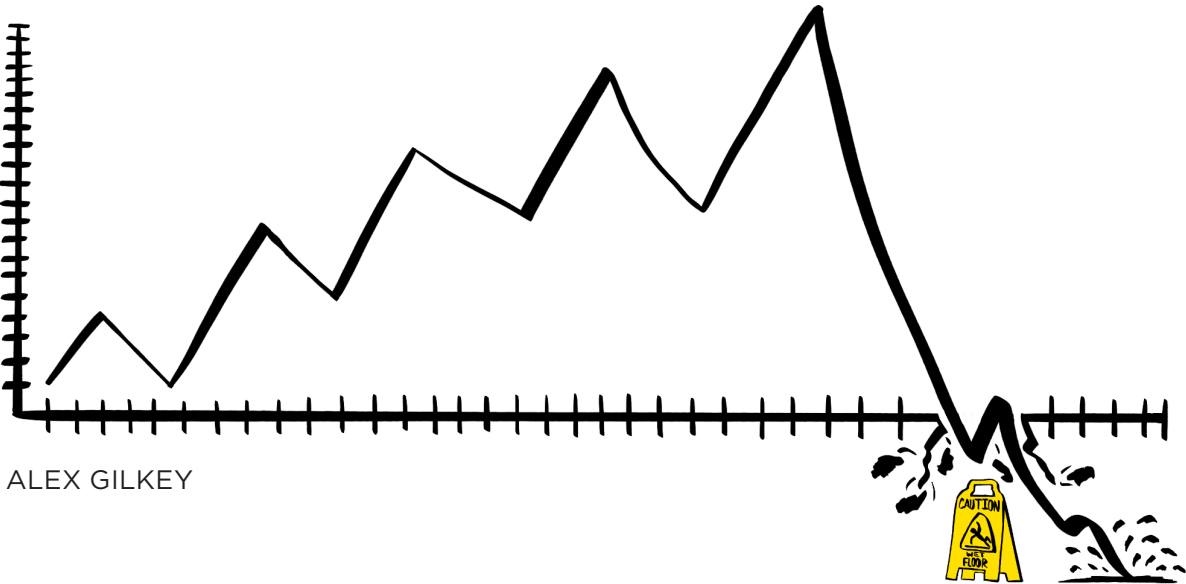
his department’s Election Day plans. He said his biggest concern was the possibility of protests based either on the outcome of the election or a delay in results. “We’re going to have officers patrolling and walking through polling places to, if nothing else, give a presence that we’re there and we’re going to keep the peace,” he said.

Morgan did not specify what types of unrest the police were worried about, and implied the police would only be present to give the appearance of authority.

Morgan also mentioned that he had met with Knox County Emergency Management Director Mark Maxwell and Knox County Sheriff David Shaf-

fer on Monday morning to coordinate their strategies. He said they reached a consensus that the chance of a situation becoming violent was very low.

The next Mount Vernon City Council meeting will be held on Nov. 9. The Zoom link to the meeting can be found on the City Council website.



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Office: 214 N. Acland Street

Mailing address: *The Kenyon Collegian*, Student Activities Center, Gambier, OH 43022

Business address: P.O. Box 832, Gambier, OH, 43022

E-mail address: collegian@kenyon.edu, kenyoncollegian@gmail.com

Admissions continued with tours throughout quiet period



As per COVID-19 guidelines, prospective students are only allowed to enter Ransom Hall upon their visit to campus. | SARA HALEBLIAN

SOPHIE KRICHEVSKY
MANAGING EDITOR

The Office of Admissions continued to hold in-person tours last week during the College's moderate alert level, despite announcing they would stop tours during the quiet period.

The College resumed in-person tours this month for the first time since March.

Last week's tours sparked a flurry of comments on Twitter from students expressing concern. People questioned the

safety risks these tours could pose for on-campus students and employees.

In response, Vice President for Enrollment and Dean of Admissions Diane Anci explained that keeping these pre-scheduled tours official might allow the Office to better monitor visitors' whereabouts on campus and enforce the College's COVID-19 safety procedures.

"We have an open campus — there's no main gate you're going through [when you arrive at Kenyon]," Anci said. "It will be safer to retain the visits that

are already on the books, as opposed to cancelling them and then having those people come on their own anyway." Because of this, admissions did not allow prospective students to schedule new tours, nor show up for an unscheduled visit during the moderate alert period.

Whether prospective families were made aware of the College's moderate alert status before arriving for visits is unclear. Anci did say, however, that she did not know of any last-minute cancellations, and

that Kenyon's COVID-19 Dashboard is accessible to the public. The Dashboard does not include the College's alert status.

Anci also emphasized that admissions officers, rather than student tour guides, will lead in-person tours, as officers have less contact with the wider student body. Athletic visits, on the other hand — which also continued last week — will be led by the teams' coaches.

Director of Athletics, Fitness and Recreation Jill McCartney believes that coaches' contact with prospective students, who

are not part of the Kenyon community, would not be cause for concern.

"Our coaches aren't meeting with student-athletes directly," McCartney said. "They don't meet in spaces inside. Their only contact with our current students is on fields." She added that indoor sports, such as volleyball, were an exception to this.

Whether the Office will reopen registration for additional visits now that the recent quiet period has concluded remains to be seen.

Quarantined student questions Health Center protocols

Continued from page 1

As of Thursday afternoon, seven students are in quarantine, which is down from nine students on Tuesday. Smith spoke of Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for those who might have come into contact with the positive case, saying that Knox Public Health (KPH) alerts any person who was within six feet of an infected person for 15 minutes or more. Although KPH is responsible for notifying those who were in close contact with the positive case, Smith also called each quarantined student on Tuesday to talk them through the quarantine procedure and answer any questions they had.

After Smith made these calls, a student in quarantine, who wished to remain anonymous due to privacy concerns, came forward to the *Collegian* with criticism of the College's quarantine and testing procedures. The student is currently quarantining in their dorm room after receiving notification from Knox Public Health that they were considered a close contact to the positive case.

The anonymous student said that the

College's quarantine protocol was loose and that there was "no real way to enforce it." Although KPH told the student they could not leave their room except to go to the bathroom, the College informed all of the close contacts who are in quarantine that they would still be allowed to go to Peirce Dining Hall to obtain their meals; the student found this concerning.

"You mean to tell me that you're letting kids who interacted with a positive case go to Peirce?" the student said. "Is that safe?"

According to Decatur, students in quarantine generally should not leave their rooms and food should be delivered to them. "Food is brought in [and] you're expected not to leave your room and your space," he said.

However, Smith stressed that as long as the quarantined students follow proper public health protocols — wearing a mask, social distancing and hand washing — the risk for transmission in Peirce is low. He emphasized that these students should be in and out of Peirce "within 10 [minutes]," which is not long enough to be considered a close contact with others under current

CDC guidelines. It is unclear why Decatur and Smith had different interpretations of quarantine protocol.

Smith also noted that, for quarantined students, leaving the confines of a dorm room was an important factor in maintaining mental health. "To stay in your room all day, every day, it would drive you up the walls," he said. "Being able to put on a mask, to stretch your legs to walk and get some cold fresh air, as you're coming to and from Peirce ... From a human standpoint, that is important."

The student also worried that the College would not be testing them and other close contacts until Nov. 2, 10 days after they had been placed in quarantine, potentially exposing others while not in complete isolation before testing positive for COVID-19.

"We're playing a guessing game with our health and lives," the student said. "My life shouldn't be a guessing game of whether I have COVID-19 or not."

To mediate student anxiety, a health center staff nurse calls each student in quarantine daily to monitor for symptoms. Smith

said that students who develop symptoms will be evaluated by the College.

Smith explained that the College was still abiding by CDC guidelines for testing close contacts. "There's a recommendation that there's testing [for people in quarantine], if the local jurisdiction has the capacity," he said. For the College, that local jurisdiction is KPH, who assumes the responsibility for positive cases and their close contacts. As a result, Smith said, KPH — not the College — decides whether to test the students in quarantine.

"And this is the fact of the matter: Testing changes nothing," he said. "Even if they get a negative test, they still have to complete all 14 days of quarantine."

All students in residence will follow the testing schedule that Decatur sent out on Monday. The second round of testing began at the start of this week and will continue until Nov. 4, with students being tested twice more before their departure on Nov. 25.

The most recent COVID-19 updates can be found on the College's COVID-19 Dashboard.

Students and faculty come together to increase voter turnout

GRANT HOLT
STAFF WRITER

With Election Day five days away, student groups and campus committees continue efforts to boost Kenyon student voter turnout. In order to ensure that students' votes are counted, an ad hoc committee formed by Kenyon faculty has encouraged students to vote early and in person.

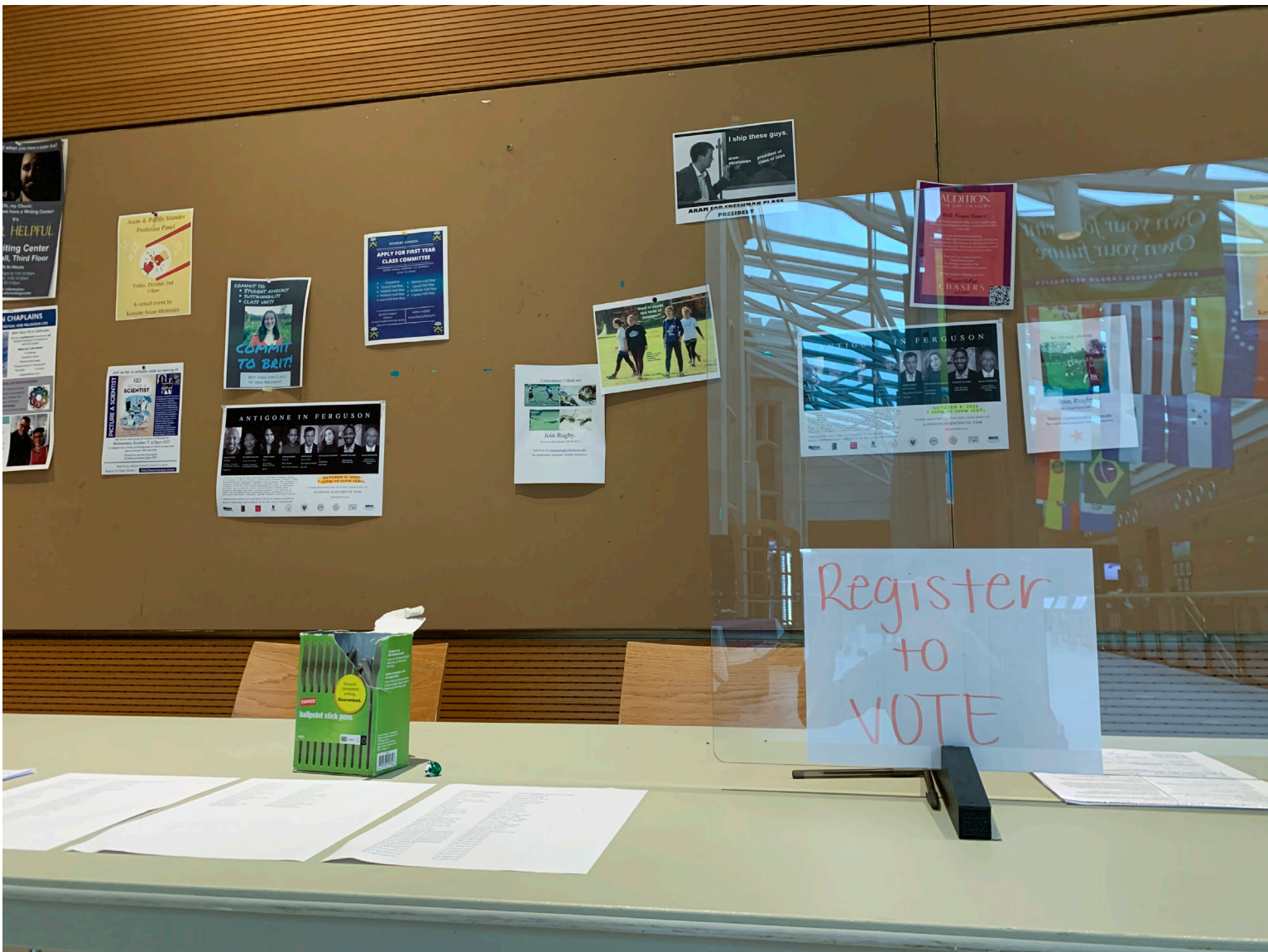
Faculty publicly declared their support for student voting by passing a resolution, publicized in a Sept. 22 email, that encouraged every community member to participate in this year's elections. Moreover, this past summer, the faculty voted to create the ad hoc committee to promote student voting at Kenyon. Assistant Professor of Political Science and Assistant Director of the Center for the Study of American Democracy Nancy Powers serves as the committee chair, with Katelyn Schwartz '21, president of Kenyon's chapter of Every Vote Counts (EVC), serving as the student co-chair.

In addition to EVC, both Kenyon Republicans and Kenyon Democrats have joined the committee's efforts.

"There's nothing partisan or political about getting people to be active in the democracy that they live in," Powers said.

A number of student groups have also distributed voting information to the Kenyon community, including instructions on how to register, how to vote by mail and how to vote in person. The College even has sections of its website dedicated to civic engagement and voter information.

Despite high registration rates for past elections, Schwartz



Student organizations helped 200 students register to vote this election season. | SARA HALEBLIAN

says there has been a disparity between registration and voter turnout this year. According to her, 200 new voters had registered on campus by Ohio's voter registration deadline.

"A huge obstacle we saw going into this year was that the upperclassmen tend to head leadership roles and take on this civic engagement position at Kenyon," Schwartz said. "So we really just wanted to empower the on-campus students to register to vote."

To encourage people to vote, EVC has employed a peer-to-peer messaging system to engage underclass students. The group also partnered with other student organizations, such as hosting voting-themed trivia with the Social Board to increase student engagement with the election. EVC also plans to host debriefing sessions after Election Day to help students process election results.

Powers noted that, ultimately, all of these programs and initia-

tives cannot make anyone vote. There is only one person who can — the voter.

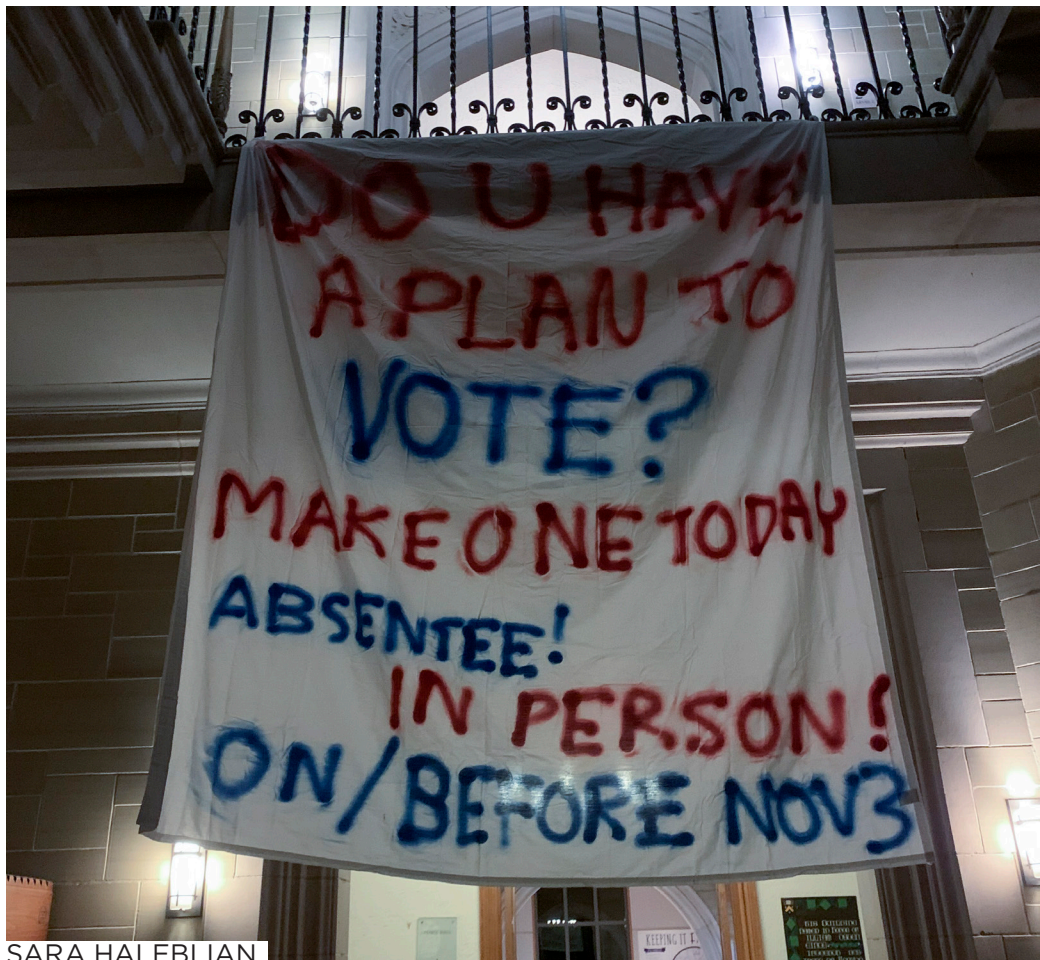
"We're trying to facilitate it, encourage it, explain why it's important, provide information on how to do it and what's on your ballot," Powers said. "But at the end of the day, you get to vote because you're an adult, and it's on you."

Professor of Biology Joan Slonczewski, who has a history of political activism, encourages all students to act without delay,

as they believe that the importance of this election cannot be overstated.

"If you're registered in Gambier, you can go early today," Slonczewski said. "If you're voting in another state, do it today. ... Make sure that your vote gets counted in the most important election of our lifetime."

Those looking to vote prior to Election Day can do so at the Knox County Board of Elections at 104 East Sugar Street.



SARA HALEBLIAN



SOPHIE KRICHEVSKY

College employee bakes sourdough bread for the community

EMILY YOURMAN
STAFF WRITER

From his office above the Kenyon Bookstore, Jason Bennett, a web applications and integrations specialist at Kenyon, runs his passion project: selling homemade sourdough bread. Bennett has been an employee of the College since 2005, and began baking sourdough in 2018.

Bennett has made about 450 loaves of sourdough since he started, around 400 of which he sold. Although he now works from home due to the pandemic, he still comes into the office on Fridays so people can pick up the loaves they have ordered. He sends his customers an email, they ring the doorbell and then they collect their bread.

A couple who buys from him regularly refers to the bread as “Jason bread,” saying things like “Oh, let’s have some ‘Jason bread’ with our soup tonight.” Another couple requested a loaf before the holidays so they could bring it back to their family in New York City, and a professor’s French au pair once referred to Bennett’s bread as “tasting like home.”

Bennett created his starter — a store of bacterial culture that gets added to every loaf — in 2018 by mixing wheat and water and letting it sit. After a few days, the mixture had bubbled with yeast and lactic acid cultures growing and feeding on the wheat. Now, he keeps this starter in a jar in his fridge, feeding it once a week with water and flour to keep it alive. This sourdough starter takes more work, but Bennett says it “produces different flavors than store-bought yeast does.”

The night before he plans on baking, Bennett sets aside however much starter he will need for his bread to let it warm up for a few hours, and then feeds it with flour before he goes to bed. The next morning he makes the dough with the starter, water, more flour and salt. He lets the dough rise while he’s at work, and controls the temperature so that it is ready at about 5 p.m.

“It’s tough because you have to deal with baking over a whole day, whereas with direct yeasted bread I could start a bread and finish a bread in an evening,” Bennett said. “But the payoff is in the flavor.”

After the dough has risen, Bennett staggers the baking, since his home oven does not have the space to cook all of the loaves at once. “I’m probably baking in the most labor-intensive way because it takes two days and I can only put two loaves in the oven at a time,” he said.

With loaves going for \$7 each, Bennett admits he isn’t making a huge profit. He started selling so he would have motivation to keep his sourdough starter alive. However, he has utilized the extra spending money for purchases like buying trees for his yard. “It was a nice tangible conversion of bread to another thing.”

The concrete nature of the work is very appealing to Bennett, especially because his day job doesn’t involve the same kind of hands-on labor. “Sometimes it’s nice to do something very tangible. You start the day with flour and water and so you end the day with loaves and you give them [to] somebody and they give you cash,” he said. “That whole process is very satisfying in a way that knowledge work is not.”



Bennett has sold bread at Kenyon for two years. | COURTESY OF JASON BENNETT



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BFEC managers present innovative virtual programming

ADAM MARGOLIS
STAFF WRITER

With Peirce Dining Hall closed and a ban on large, in-person gatherings, the social scene at Kenyon has changed and students are seeking new ways to stay connected. In-person and virtual programs at the Brown Family Environmental Center (BFEC) have provided students with ways to socialize while still following social distancing guidelines and other COVID-19 protocols.

Through these programs, BFEC Student Managers Sarah Pazen '22 and Cecily King '22 hope to create a place where Kenyon students can relax and socialize while connecting with nature. "Engaging Kenyon students with the resources and trails at the BFEC is our goal," Pazen said. Her focus has been on planning in-person events, where groups of up to nine students can explore the BFEC's nature trails and other resources. Additionally, Pazen, who is also a service co-chair of The Archon Society, coordinated with the organization to hold the River Rally, an event in which students volunteered to help clean up the portion of the Kokosing River that flows through the BFEC.

King, on the other hand, spends most of her time planning virtual programs. "I've been hosting virtual scavenger hunts," she said, which have been popular. "People have emailed us at the BFEC account to thank us for how grateful they are for the events we planned," she said.

However, planning these programs has not been easy: both Pazen and King have been working diligently with administrators to plan their programs and to make sure that they follow Kenyon's safety protocols. In addition, they have had to restructure some events to accommodate demand and, due to changes in protocol, have had to reschedule other



BFEC student managers have continued to draw in students during the pandemic. | SARA HALEBLIAN

programs for later dates.

The need for BFEC managers to be flexible in programming has become more important during the recently imposed quiet period. While the quiet period was in effect, Pazen explained that both of the programs she was supposed to run have been cancelled by the College. "Right now our programs are in limbo," Pazen said.

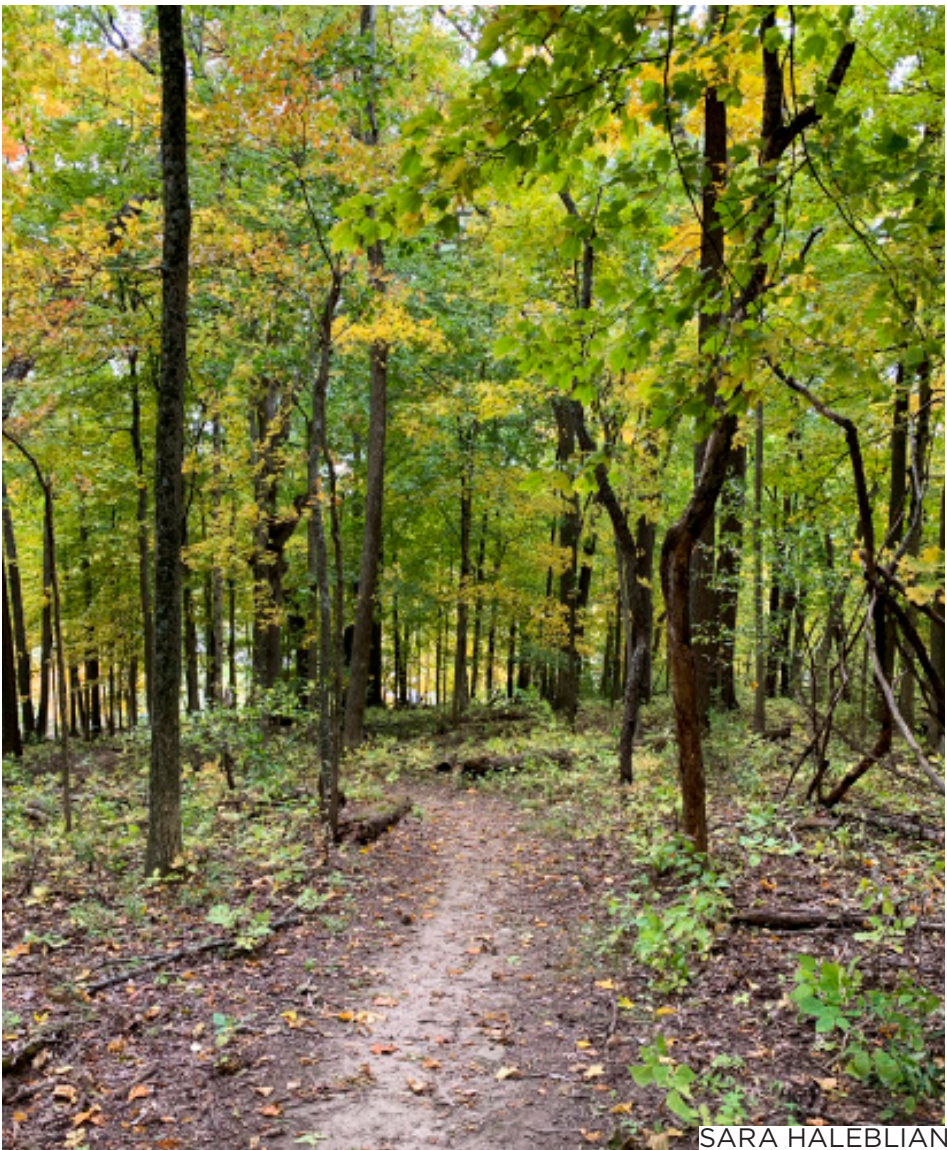
Both Pazen and King say the setbacks have been difficult, but they are working with administrators to make sure their programs will be able to be held once the quiet period has been lifted, especially since the BFEC is one of the few places where students on campus can safely socialize. "There's not much on campus that we can do safely, but there's space to spread out at the BFEC," said Pazen.

"The BFEC has really been one of the biggest saving graces at the moment," King agreed.

Ultimately, both Pazen and King hope that their programs will help increase student interest and use of the BFEC. They also hope that their events will reinforce a sense of community and provide a social outlet for Kenyon students, especially during this time of isolation.



SARA HALEBLIAN



SARA HALEBLIAN

After months of production, Cabaret-19 to premiere Friday

PEGGY STANSBURY
STAFF WRITER

On Friday at 8 p.m., Kenyon's Department of Dance, Drama, and Film will release its digital theater production, Cabaret-19, on Vimeo. The production is composed of various monologues, short plays, dance pieces and musical numbers all related to COVID-19 and other current events. Cabaret-19 has around 50 students involved in the production and an impressive roster of professional writers on the project, including Tony Award nominee Lucas Hnath.

In order to recreate the experience of watching a show as a community, the Kenyon College Dance, Drama & Cinema Club will host in-person viewing parties in various locations across campus on Friday. Additionally, the Social Board will be providing grab-and-go snack bags for people to enjoy while viewing the premiere.

The cast and crew of Cabaret-19 will watch the production's premiere together in the Bolton Theater. "Even though they will not get a live performance experience ... viewing the premiere together still provides that community aspect of theater," said Associate Professor of Drama Anton Dudley, the director of Cabaret-19.

Cabaret-19 will also be available online for free viewing, increasing the show's accessibility. "Now friends, parents and extended family members can see and access the productions in ways they wouldn't have been able to in past years," said Dudley.

Despite the fact that Broadway will not reopen until fall 2021 and many universities have cancelled their in-person productions, Dudley still wanted Kenyon to put on a fall production. He is excited by the opportunities Cabaret-19 has presented. "Even though theater looks different from the theater we have done in the past, we can see that theater is very much alive and immediate, and that it can be done in this moment," Dudley said.

While putting together Cabaret-19 over the summer, Dudley commissioned about 30 professional writers. He asked them to produce responses



Top, Bella Kimbrough '24 performs a dance by Assistant Professor of Dance Kora Radella. Bottom, Laura Stone '23 and Liza Borghesani '24 rehearse a scene. | COURTESY OF ANTONIN DUDLEY

to some element of their experience with the last six months. Their pieces represented various aspects that have defined people's journeys since the beginning of the pandemic, including the Black Lives Matter movement and social isolation.

Dudley hopes the production's diverse cast and contributors and its focus on current events will attract

viewers.

"This production represents a larger body of voices than seen in past productions ... showing [an] immediate response to what is going on in the world," Dudley said.

While providing viewers with the opportunity to process this year's events, Dudley also expressed hopes that Cabaret-19 will offer both enter-

tainment and a sense of community. "I think we are all starved for that right now," he said. "I think that will be something nice to have."

For those off campus or otherwise not attending a viewing party, Cabaret-19 will be available online at kenyon.edu/cabaret-19 starting at 8 p.m. on Oct. 30.

Kenyon Review co-sponsors event, raises money and morale

HAYLEY DIETRICH
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, Oct. 22, the Kenyon Writers' Harvest took place over Zoom. Co-sponsored by the *Kenyon Review*, The Rural Cause and Sunset Press, the event brought students, professors and *Kenyon Review* staff together to listen to the newly published work of Kenyon alumni.

The Writers' Harvest had been a tradition at Kenyon in previous years. It started in the fall of 1991 to benefit the charity Share Our Strength, though it had been on hiatus for a time. It

was Kenyon alumna Claire Oleson '19 who suggested the return of the event.

With 15% of Knox County's 62,000 residents living in poverty, one goal of the Writers' Harvest was to provide them with support. To this end, Sunset Press, co-led by Armiya "A" Shaikh '21, allowed attendees to donate to United Way, which is currently tackling COVID-19 relief work for small businesses. Sunset Press raised \$348 for United Way, exceeding expectations.

Professor of English Emerita Jennifer Clarvoe and Donald L. Rogan Professor of Reli-

gious Studies Emeritus Royal Rhodes, who have hosted prior Writers' Harvests, gave short introductions at the beginning of the event. In addition to Olsen, alumni reading included Kelly Fordon '89, Caitlin Horrocks '02, Annette Covrigaru '14, Allyson Young '14, Celine Anelle-Rocha '15 and Colin Ainsworth '17.

Another goal of this Writers' Harvest was to promote alumni books, poems and chapbooks released during the pandemic. "We're lucky to have so many writers gather together from different places," said Kirsten Reach, an editor for the *Kenyon*

Review. "I hope that some Kenyon alumni and general audience members heard from writers they hadn't heard from before."

For Reach, a highlight of the event was seeing professors reconnect with their old students. Associate Professor of English Jené Schoenfeld and Associate Professor of English Sarah J. Heidt were among those in attendance. The Zoom chat filled with excited greetings from alumni thanking their professors for continuing to take interest in their former students' writing.

After the event, Shaikh spoke

enthusiastically about the potential for literature to impact the world outside of Kenyon. "I'm thinking about how we can use writing and reading and this literary community to embolden those who need it," Shaikh said. "It's an important part of being a literary citizen."

Overall, the event was successful, both in supporting Knox County and bringing the Kenyon writing community a little closer together.

Books and chapbooks shared at the Writers' Harvest will be available for sale through the Kenyon Review Bookshop, under the "Writers' Harvest" section.

STAFF EDITORIAL

With COVID-19, accountability is key

On Saturday, Oct. 24, the College alerted the Kenyon community of a positive COVID-19 test result, assuring us that anyone who may have come in close contact with that person would be notified and advised of next steps. As noted in our article this week, however, Director of Health and Counseling Chris Smith and the administration knew of this positive test as early as 5 p.m. Friday afternoon and chose not to inform the community for another 24 hours.

Though this is not the first time the administration has failed to be transparent with the Kenyon community, this time is different. The administration's inability to promptly inform the community is, at best, irresponsible, and at worst, a matter of life and death.

After extending the quiet period over the weekend, the College said it would test all employees this week. The College's decision to lower its COVID-19 alert status prior to receiving all employee test results is also reflective of this irresponsibility; not only is this the first time Kenyon has tested employees since August, but to lift the quiet period without receiving these long-overdue tests is reckless.

We at the *Collegian* are concerned that the administration's recent decisions are symptomatic of larger problems: a lack of organization in Kenyon's COVID-19 response and a level of ineptitude which the College wishes to hide.

The fact that the College did not notify the community of the positive test for a full day and did not update its COVID-19 Dashboard for roughly 72 hours casts doubt on the integrity of the Dashboard. If we cannot trust that the Dashboard is giving us the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 on campus, we are left to wonder how much of what we know from the administration about COVID-19 at Kenyon is true.

As an anonymous source told the *Collegian*, Kenyon has not been taking adequate steps to ensure that students who came into close contact with the positive case are being isolated properly. The student noted there was "no real way to enforce" isolation, suggesting that for all intents and purposes exposed students would be free to roam the campus.

President Sean Decatur told the *Collegian* this week that — in line with Knox Public Health (KPH) guidelines — quarantined students are not meant to leave their residence halls for any reason, including for meals, whereas this anonymous source told the *Collegian* that quarantined students are being told to get their own meals from Peirce. What is more worrying, Chris Smith not only confirmed but was not concerned by this, implying that such breaking of quarantine was necessary for mental health.

Not only is this a public health risk, but it also illustrates the College's alarming departure from KPH protocol. Moreover, this is not the first time the College has gone against KPH's advice; another anonymous source told the *Collegian* last month that Kenyon isolated them in poor accommodations, even after the student was cleared by KPH to return to campus.

The College's actions in both of these instances suggest that it does not trust KPH, setting a dangerous precedent for public health protocol during the ongoing pandemic.

The staff editorial is written weekly by editors-in-chief Mae Hunt '21 and Evey Weisblat '21, managing editor Sophie Krichesky '21 and executive director Elizabeth Stanley '21. You can contact them at hunt1@kenyon.edu, weisblat1@kenyon.edu, krichesky1@kenyon.edu and stanley2@kenyon.edu, respectively.

MILO LEVINE
CONTRIBUTOR

Next week's presidential election will likely be the most important in our lifetimes, and perhaps the history of the United States. Over the last four years, we've seen a presidential administration plagued by corruption, incompetence, bigotry and racism, and as a result our country has suffered. There are endless ways to quantify the failures of the Trump administration, whether it be in the more than 228,000 American lives lost to the coronavirus, the millions of acres burned in wildfires across the West Coast, the thousands of victims of police brutality or the hundreds of immigrant children separated from their families at the border. But as we approach Election Day, it is important to recognize how Trump has been unable to perform the most fundamental role of being president: acting presidential.

The president holds considerable power in shaping institutions, such as the Supreme Court, and has the ability to influence policy by either vetoing or signing bills into law. However, another important task of the president is to represent the United States to the rest of the world. A president should be intelligent, thoughtful and professional. Trump is none of these things. I would argue that Trump represents America about as well as Ryan Lochte did at the 2016 Summer Olympics.

All presidents make mistakes and misspeak on occasion. The Democratic nominee for president, Joe Biden, has had his slip-ups, such as when he mistakenly said that two million Americans have died of the coronavirus instead of 200,000. But with Trump it's not one thing — it's everything. It's the Twitter attacks on Rosie O'Donnell, the ridiculing of the disabled and the blatant racism ("very fine people on both sides," "bad hombres," the list goes on). It's his inarticulate speech, poor grammar, poor spelling ("covfefe," etc.) and complete inability to make a cogent point under any circumstance.

The public behavior of the president matters. When it comes to international diplomacy, the demeanor of a nation's leader speaks to the integrity of their country. Peace talks, trade negotiations and any forms of international collaboration that the United States engages in are less likely to be successful when the president isn't respected. The United States has historically been a leader among nations, but over the last four years it has lost its pull. In the midst of a global crisis, nations are no longer looking to the United States for help or guidance, and Trump is responsible.

It is not just other countries that have stopped looking to the American president in time of need: The American people have as well. Trump's denial of science, disparagement of mask wearing and social distancing and constant Twitter feuds with pub-

lic health experts have made Americans unsure of who they can look to for guidance in a pandemic. Furthermore, in a year when America has had to reckon with its long history of racial oppression, President Trump's public comments have only brought the country further from resolution. Trump is not the first president who has failed to address the inadequacies in the policing and criminal justice systems, but his outwardly racist remarks and the division they exacerbate are a unique failure in recent American history.

With the election just days away, it's crucial to acknowledge how Trump has failed to be a leader, and how Joe Biden will not make the same mistakes. Joe Biden is respectful and composed. He doesn't dabble in the rhetoric of white supremacists, nor does he publicly degrade women or members of any marginalized group. The nuances of Biden's policy proposals can be endlessly dissected, but one doesn't need to possess a firm understanding of policy to make the right decision on the ballot. It doesn't take a political scientist to tell you that the way in which Trump carries himself is not becoming of a president, and, while there are undeniably some valid criticisms of Biden, he has proven that he will not be an embarrassment to the office and to the American people.

Milo Levine '23 is an undeclared major from Mill Valley, Calif. You can contact him at levine1@kenyon.edu

Letter to the editor: PEEPS for K-SWOC

Dear Editors of the *Kenyon Collegian*,

We, the members of the PEEPS O' Kenyon Alumni Association, write in support of the Kenyon Student Workers Organizing Committee and their efforts to form a union.

Many of our members spent long years in college debugging IT and rigging PAs, re-shelving monographs and slinging hash browns. We know firsthand the value student workers bring to campus. We know also, from our time in the workplace since graduating, that labor unions do not diminish the organizations whose workers they represent; they enhance them.

Unions create more invested employees, more dynamic organizational communication, improved health and safety standards and efficiency-derived cost savings — all of which are qualities our Kenyon educations taught us to value. Kenyon's successful partnership with United Electrical 712 is just one example of the value unions can impart. We feel confident that the nascent student union will do the same.

Years ago, sitting amid the aristocratic pomp of Philomathesian Hall, I had the privilege of hearing Professor Shutt deliver his IPHS lecture on Marx. By this point, my classmates

and I knew Professor Shutt well enough to be concerned that our introduction to class struggle would be delivered by a professor who most of us loved somewhat in spite of his deeply held conservative beliefs. The talk began in the familiar Shutt style: eloquent and engaging, rehearsing major theses, clarifying obscure Hegelianisms and contextualizing with vibrant historical anecdotes.

But, as the lecture drew to a close, the focus shifted to the personal and local. Professor Shutt recalled sitting in the Cove, overhearing students mocking shoppers they'd encountered at Walmart. He recalled their condescension and disregard for the working-class people in whose community they were privileged to attend college. He recalled students deriding fashion choices and shopping cart contents and the quiet disappointment on the faces of the bartender and of the longtime Gambier residents — farmers and grocery store workers, engine-factory line workers and janitors — as the students mocked them. He summoned like specters the disappointed faces of his friends and neighbors — and of our own, too, that we often seemed to forget.

Professor Shutt recalled, also, the contempt with which some of us discussed student workers — our crass

jokes about hairnets and paint crews — without whose campus jobs a Kenyon education would be impossible. Too many of us, sitting in the stained-glass light of that Ohio afternoon, recognized ourselves as those mocking, scoffing Cove-goers. Too many of us had disdained the work that supported our lives, the giant shoulders on which we too indifferently stood, even as we showered them with castings.

But no longer. This letter is offered as a small correction to that earlier indifference. We stand in solidarity with Kenyon's student workers. We support their struggle for collective bargaining, their desire for work-study job stability and accessibility, for international student worker justice, for harassment-free workplaces, for wages that reflect student workers' essentiality and for increased mental health support. Most importantly, we demand student worker voices be heard, that they have a seat at the table.

We stand in solidarity, for it is only in union we find grace.

With angels & Engels,

Chris Bench
President
Peeps Alumni Association

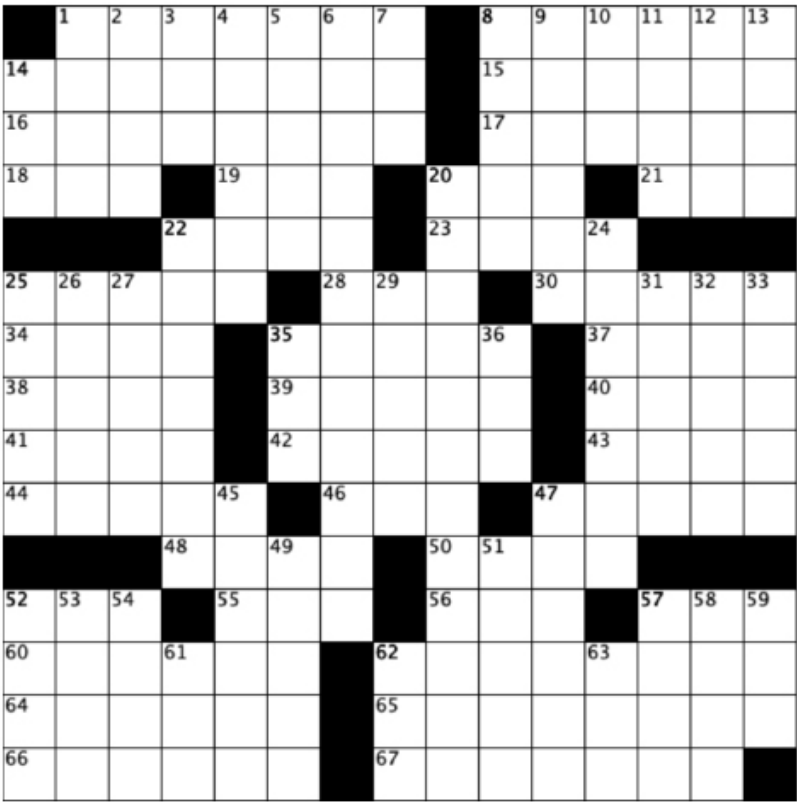
Oct. 15 Crossword Solutions

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ETHAN BONNELL
CONTRIBUTOR

REILLY WIELAND
CROSSWORD EDITOR

CROSSWORD

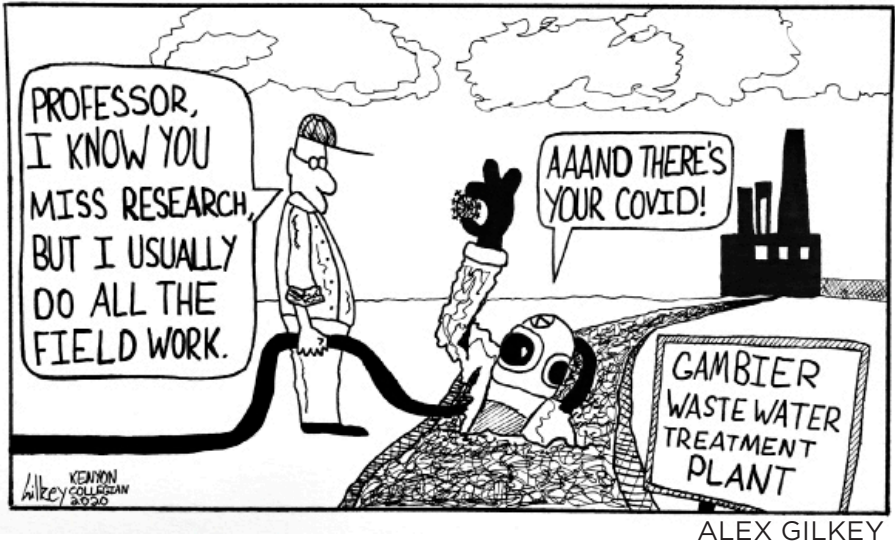


Across

- 1 Hardly a hedonist
- 8 Plan
- 14 Reward for a comedian?
- 15 Calm
- 16 Hoggish reward for a dog
- 17 Painter Mark
- 18 "The Evil Dead" hero
- 19 "Are you a good witch ___ bad witch?" -Dorothy
- 20 Hamilton's bill
- 21 Travis Kelce and Gronk, in short
- 22 Big blow?
- 23 Swamp thing
- 25 Fortune teller's cards
- 28 "It ___"
- 30 Uncommon common trait?
- 34 Former Senate Majority Leader
- 35 Lumberjack's first cut
- 37 Bar habitues
- 38 Vedic dawn goddess
- 39 An enemy of Indiana Jones, perhaps
- 40 Green Giant globules
- 41 Dust bug
- 42 Alexander's killer
- 43 Join a game
- 44 Short-sheeting, e.g.
- 46 The Once-___, in a Seuss story
- 47 #2 for #44
- 48 Willy Wonka's creator
- 50 Peter or Paul
- 52 Birthplace of Springsteen
- 55 Are permitted to
- 56 "___ for Rocket": Bradbury
- 57 Daughter of Lord Byron
- 60 Reward for a laborer?
- 62 Antifreeze compound
- 64 Baltimore batter
- 65 Reward for a jazz musician?
- 66 Stealth fighters
- 67 Say "Boo!" to, say

Down

- 1 Black birds
- 2 One may accompany an eye roll
- 3 Dosage amts.
- 4 Scrape by
- 5 Eye drops?
- 6 How a superstitious person might behave
- 7 HTML partner
- 8 Buyer's binge
- 9 Star Wars prequel attackers
- 10 Rabbit habitat, perhaps
- 11 Real, to Emil
- 12 Running mate of 25-Down
- 13 Hullabaloo
- 14 Resting place
- 20 Holiday greetings?
- 22 Stroke of fortune
- 24 Abandon all hope
- 25 Ranking suit
- 26 Gods led by Odin
- 27 Cow-catcher
- 29 Weapon of Medusa
- 31 Feature of a haunted hallway, perhaps
- 32 Ohio or denial
- 33 German steel town
- 35 Code-cracking org.
- 36 House-sitter?
- 45 Running mate of 47-Across
- 47 Harsh critic
- 49 Physics major's residence, maybe
- 51 Capital of Russian America
- 52 Informed about
- 53 Delhi wrap
- 54 Hebrew glottal consonant
- 57 Blue hue, or the shrub that produces that color
- 58 A magician's bird, often
- 59 Brew
- 61 Barr's bar: abbr.
- 62 Atlas abbr.
- 63 Back on board?



ALEX GILKEY

WEEKLY COLUMN

Make the most of your vote: cast your ballot in Ohio

GRACE GOLDSTEIN
COLUMNIST

In the weeks since early in-person voting began in Ohio, Kenyon students have been making the trek to cast their ballots at the Knox County Board of Elections in downtown Mount Vernon. Many of us are voting in a presidential election for the first time in our lives. It's exciting. And for students from states like California and New York, the chance to cast our votes in a swing state is a privilege.

As voters, many Kenyon students are fish out of water. A wave of liberal, frequently left-leaning teenagers and 20-somethings emerge from our bubble on the Hill to vote in rural Ohio every election, with a clear intention of swinging a state that, in most cases, isn't ours. This is not based on any conception that we know better than our neighbors in Mount Vernon. We all cast a ballot based on our own beliefs. The decision to vote in Ohio is a way to ensure our votes reach their full potential in a democracy where not all ballots carry equal weight.

In this year's presidential election, many people's rights are on the line. The sitting president's racist, anti-immigrant, and sexist rhetoric has made America's political divide extremely stark. Now more than ever, voting is an important way of advocating for one's community. America's long-writ police brutality crisis has entered the national spotlight, pushing the fight against systemic racism to a historical tipping point. The confirmation of a conservative Supreme Court justice has put women's rights on the line, and threatened reproductive rights as well. On top of all this, we're still in the trenches of a global pandemic and rapidly heading into a full-on climate crisis. These are incredibly high stakes.

Our intention as voters is to have a direct impact on our government. Voting in decidedly red or blue states is an important civic duty, but can feel like a borderline symbolic act. Ohio is a swing state, and our votes will likely have a stronger impact here. In what could be the most important election of our lifetimes, this is a powerful opportunity to influence national politics.

It's generally understood that those from red or blue states have very little voting power compared to our counterparts in swing states. In a critical election year, our votes are needed. Living in Ohio, even as temporary residents, is a rare and wonderful opportunity to maximize our civic impact, and truly make our voices heard. Though it shouldn't matter which state we vote in, the Electoral College created a power imbalance. If we can level the playing field, even slightly, by voting in Gambier, we should go for it.

Grace Goldstein '24 is a columnist for the Collegian. She is an undeclared major from New York, N.Y. You can contact her at goldstein4@kenyon.edu.

The opinions page is a space for members of the community to discuss issues relevant to the campus and the world at large. The opinions expressed on this page belong only to the writers. Columns and letters to the editors do not reflect the opinions of the Collegian staff. All members of the community are welcome to express opinions through a letter to the editor.

The Kenyon Collegian reserves the right to edit all letters submitted for length and clarity. The Collegian cannot accept anonymous or pseudonymous letters. Letters must be signed by individuals, not organizations, and must be 200 words or fewer. Letters must also be received no later than the Tuesday prior to publication. The Kenyon Collegian prints as many letters as possible each week subject to space, interest and appropriateness. Members of the editorial board reserve the right to reject any submission. The views expressed in the paper do not necessarily reflect the views of Kenyon College.

Did you finish this crossword? Email a photo of your completed crossword to crossword@kenyoncollegian.com.

You can also complete this crossword online at kenyoncollegian.com/section/opinion.

After 75 years of sports journalism, Sid Hartman dies at 100

JORDY FEE-PLATT
SPORTS EDITOR

JOE WINT
SPORTS EDITOR

The sports world lost a legendary member of its community last week: Sid Hartman, a lifelong Minnesota sports journalist, died at the age of 100 on Oct. 18.

Hartman's first local sports column was published in 1945. Over the course of his career, he worked his way up the ranks from a newspaper delivery man to one of the most respected sports journalists of all time. Much of his success can be attributed to the strong relationships he formed with players and executives, demonstrated through the outpouring of support in the aftermath of his death.

Baseball Commissioner Robert Manfred issued a statement following Hartman's passing. "Sid Hartman was a singular figure of the Minnesota sports scene throughout the entire history of the [Minnesota] Twins franchise, and a friend to so many throughout our National Pastime," Manfred wrote. "Appropriately, he was member No. 1 one for the Baseball Writers' Association of America at the time of his passing, as well as the organization's longest-tenured member."

Former Minnesota Vikings linebacker Chad Greenway post-

ed a picture with Hartman on his Instagram page, with the caption, "Rest in Peace my personal friend. What a joy to get to know you and the legend you were." Former Vikings wide receiver Jake Reid posted his thoughts on Twitter: "I could always count on Sid to write exactly what I said. Trusted him 100%."

Hartman broke down many of the professional barriers that sports personnel use to shield themselves from the media, creating what has been referred to by colleagues as "Sid's Rules." Hartman established unique intimate ties with local athletes, gaining access to sensitive information that wasn't available to less talented reporters. "I'll never forget when Sid Hartman gave my mom a talking to because I was contemplating going to school out of state. No one loved Minnesota sports more," said Minnesota native and NHL winger Blake Wheeler on Twitter.

Hartman was responsible for over 21,000 bylined stories throughout his career. He sold newspapers for the *Minneapolis Times* from the time he was nine years old, and in 1944, sports editor Dick Collum offered Hartman a position at the paper's sports desk. This marked the beginning of a 75-year career in sportswriting. After the *Times* folded in 1948, Hartman was hired by the *Star Tribune* as a columnist and quickly made a name for himself. *Star Tribune*

publisher Michael Klingensmith said that Hartman's contributions to the success of the *Tribune* are immeasurable. "He leaves an amazing legacy and we will miss him greatly," Klingensmith told the *Tribune's* Patrick Reusse. "It won't be the same reading our sports pages without Sid's column."

"It's a sad day," *Star Tribune* sports editor Chris Carr told the Associated Press. "He is the *Star Tribune* in many ways, at least in the sports department. It speaks to his amazing life that even at 100-and-a-half years old, he passes away and we still can't believe it."

Hartman's ventures into radio and business were equally successful. Starting in 1955, Hartman worked for the local Minneapolis radio station, WCCO, hosting a widely popular Sunday morning show featuring daily call-ins and coaches' interviews.

Hartman was also heavily involved with the Los Angeles Lakers' storied franchise. In 1947, he purchased the Detroit Gems from Morris Winston with a \$15,000 check for the franchise buyer Morris Chalfen. The Gems franchise relocated to Minneapolis and rebranded themselves as the Lakers.

Hartman became the de facto general manager of the Minneapolis Lakers and was central to the success of the franchise in its early years. Most notably, Hartman was key in acquiring tre-



Sid Hartman | BOBAK HA'ERI VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

mendous talent, including the great center George Mikan in the 1947-48 season. The Lakers went on to win five NBA titles over the next six years.

Most importantly, Hartman was a role model for young, aspiring journalists across the country. "I have followed the advice that if you love what you do, you never work a day in your life," Hartman wrote in his column for his 100th birthday. "Even at 100, I can say I still love what I do."

Hartman's son, Chad, followed in his father's footsteps, reporting as a play-by-play announcer for the Minnesota Timberwolves and serving as a local talk show host.

"My father's extraordinary and resilient life has come to a

peaceful conclusion surrounded by his family," Chad tweeted after his father's passing. Chad pointed out that the isolated nature of his final months took a toll on his father. "It took away the chance to see the people he liked. It took away his zest, not being able to go four, five different places every day and to laugh, to get on people and have them get on him," Chad said.

According to his son, Hartman's commitment to the profession was a major contributor to his accomplishments. "It was something — that competitiveness — that allowed him to love his life. And the ability to build a life to enjoy, to come from where he started to reach his level of success — it's a remarkable story."

Long-time Rockets GM Daryl Morey to head to Philadelphia

HUIJIN MAO
STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 15, after a 13-season tenure with the Houston Rockets, Daryl Morey announced that he will step down as the general manager (GM) effective Nov. 1. Morey is well known for his unique, analytical approach to basketball.

"It's been a great run and I appreciate everything Daryl's done," Tilman Fertitta, the owner of the team, told ABC News. "If I have any questions or need his support, he's there for me and this organization ... He will be a Rocket forever. And that's just the way it is."

Morey cited personal reasons for his resignation. In a television interview with ESPN, Morey said that he wants to spend more time with his family, especially his daughter, who is taking a gap year from college during the pandemic.

Shortly after his departure, Morey noted that he was looking for less time-consuming professional opportunities outside the league. "I'm sort of open on what's next," Morey wrote in a statement released on Twitter. "But I do love sports. I do love the NBA. And I do think a big part of doing this is to see what new challenges might be out there."

Despite his comments, ESPN re-

ported that Morey accepted a job on Wednesday as the new president of basketball operations for the Philadelphia 76ers. A formal announcement from Morey is expected as soon as this week, sources told NBA insider Adrian Wojnarowski.

Rafael Stone, the Rockets' current executive vice president of basketball operations, will assume the role of Houston's general manager, becoming only the 10th Black executive to hold the general manager title in NBA history.

An MIT graduate, Morey is one of the early proponents of using more sophisticated metrics in the NBA. His strategy is bold and precise. For example, no players in this season's starting lineup were listed at a height above six feet, six inches. Operating on the philosophy that stars are a top priority, Morey is on the constant lookout for acquiring new talent. He has made 77 trades in total, the second-most in the NBA since 2007. The most famous among these are the trades for Chris Paul and former MVPs James Harden and Russell Westbrook.

Though the Rockets did not win a championship during Morey's tenure, they reached the Western Conference Finals twice and had the highest winning percentage (0.615) of any team besides the San Antonio Spurs during

that span. The Rockets have made it to the second round of the playoffs 10 times and have the longest active playoff streak in the NBA.

The highlight of Morey's tenure came during the 2017-18 season, when Harden was named MVP after leading the Rockets to the best record in the NBA, with 65 wins in the regular season. In the postseason, Morey's Rockets pushed the seemingly indomitable Golden State Warriors to a seven-game series in the Western Conference Finals. With the Rockets up 3-2 in the series, they appeared destined for a trip to the NBA Finals. However, point guard Chris Paul suffered a hamstring injury late in Game 5, and the Warriors won the final two games of the series and moved on.

The sustained success and ability of the Rockets cannot be understated. Morey was fully aware of how special his opportunities to compete for a championship were. "If you've got even a 5% chance to win the title — and that group includes a very small number of teams every year — you've gotta be focused all on winning the title," he told ESPN's Zach Lowe.

Morey's influence on the NBA isn't restricted to the 5% theory. He has also contributed to the increased frequency of 3-point shots and the usage of met-

rics to evaluate defense. "It's reasonable to argue NBA basketball is both more mathematically efficient and (with some teams) less interesting to watch because of Morey," Lowe reported.



Daryl Morey | MORBIDTHOUGHTS VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS